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LIBRARIES FOR INDUSTRY

A CONCRETE PLAN.

J. D. McDONALD, M.A., M.SC., *Technical High School, Westport.*

THE EXCELLENT articles on this subject in the June issue point most clearly to the matters with which we must grapple. In New Zealand we lack awareness of the importance of libraries in industry, so we do not possess them. Even if we did, we lack the highly specialised personnel to run them and the equally important technical response from the would-be user. This last point is the most important of all. While everyone agrees that a highly trained technical librarian is a necessity, who ever thinks that "Instructions for the use of technical Libraries," and a fairly well-defined attitude towards both libraries and science are essential for an adequate response? N.Z. has to be taught to use technical libraries.

The articles, however, did not deal with the things most concretely important in our little country, viz., What technical library (or libraries) do we need? How are they to be organised? How are we to ensure maximum efficiency in their use? In other words, how are we to provide an actual mass of data and how are the reasonable inferences to be drawn therefrom?

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
GENERAL LIBRARY

LOOKING TOWARDS 1964.

Presuming that our present overstated reproductive index of 1.195 becomes constant, our population will be two millions in 1964. Obviously we have neither the opportunity nor the need for extremely long-term planning nor for an extreme scientific specialisation within a wide diversity of fields. We must confine ourselves to projects of interest to us in a reasonable future time and leave the rest to countries much better fitted to undertake such work. In 1964 N.Z. will still be a very small country with a narrow range of interests. By that time, too, the world will have undergone a certain amount of reconstruction and the trend of industrial development in N.Z. will have become clearer. At present we can tabulate our basic industrial needs and endeavour to fit them into a post-war pattern. Housing will be the major problem after the War, but while it will serve as an excellent rehabilitation measure we must remember that present plans call for the building of 100,000 houses in the next fifteen years, but after that only replacements will be required. This is obviously a short-term policy matter. Of course, the libraries could help keep us abreast of progress in housing abroad such as Pearce and Bemis foundations, etc., but their true function is to assist in long-range planning. This comes under the following heads:—

(a) *What we have—The fullest possible documentation of all our resources, readily available to anyone with ideas, is a necessity.*

(b) *What they do abroad with resources such as ours. This should include the latest information. Such is the march of technology we can safely disregard anything before the last war.*

(c) *Problems in N.Z.'s Industrial Development. The libraries should arrange for these to be written by competent people.*

Public access to the above would greatly stimulate scientific thought among the practical men of industry.

(d) *The Changing Industrial Scene. This is important to the worker in industry in that he can gauge the rising or falling importance of his calling.—The disappearance of craftsmanship, for example, touches him very nearly.*

(e) *Technics and Civilisation (if I may borrow Mumford's title). This aims at a high standard of technical knowledge in the community—not necessarily, of course, technical ability; but a certain respect for it and a vivid awareness of its possibilities. Great technical advances spring from a general high level of development of interest. In this section would be included "popular" science.*

A MASTER PLAN FOR TECHNICAL LIBRARIES.

So much for the N.Z. scene. Now, what to do about it? Firstly, the N.Z.L.A. must *draw up a master plan at once*, something like that of the technological section of the U.S. Special Libraries' Association. This will involve it in a community survey that is quite outside its province, but the information is available through the publications of the various government departments. Assuming, for the sake of beginning somewhere, that this survey reveals that N.Z.'s only chances of competitive industries lie in the fields of better utilisation of our four natural assets, viz., our climate, hydro-electric power, forests and coal. There, then, is the basis of our master plan, and it is the business of the libraries to focus public attention upon it. We should

not dissipate our energies pursuing each new beckoning will o' the wisp. We must recognise clearly that N.Z. is almost completely devoid of the large mineral deposits that make heavy industry possible. Our major industries will be few—and their potentialities limited—unless the general technical knowledge be of a high level. Out of this high general standard spring the specialists who will lead in industrial development. They, too, must be served by the libraries. A world-wide survey must be made by a permanent committee representative of industry. The librarian is to be consulted only as to availability. This survey must be continuous and book purchase lavish; provided always that all purchases bear, somehow, on the N.Z. master plan.

Let us now presume that we set about procuring, at great cost, an adequate stock of books and periodicals, and that we have suitable personnel (of which more later), but how is the material to reach the users?

THE IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

There is only one way. At adolescence, the prospective entrant to industry is at his most impressionable age. It is now that he must be introduced to the scope of research, and this means that he must be taught how to use a technical library. It is too late when he is already adult. It may be that he will never need to use the Industrial Arts Index himself, but he should know what it is and for what to consult it: he may never need to know anything of the science of cataloguing; suffice it for him to know enough to get what he wants. The problem then, is in two parts—(a) To induce the adolescent to use the library as naturally as he would ask a teacher for information. (b) To make him as self-reliant as possible in it.

To these ends, the master plan should provide for large "resident" libraries of carefully chosen and diverse scientific matter at all our technical high schols from which, in the main, come the entrants to Dr. Gardner's "middle class of industry." It is probable that these books should be renewed frequently or circulated among the schools. Above all, they must be up-to-date and very closely linked to the master technical library. A simplified edition of the Industrial Arts Index and Scientists' Guide to Periodical Literature, etc. should be available so that when the student later meets these useful aids he will already be familiar with them in principle and will not be daunted by them. The earliest possible introduction should be made to the library resources and method. Perhaps the Country Library Service might help by:—

(a) Arranging for the committee's choice, purchase and circulation of the books.
(b) Supplying a trained librarian to the larger technical high schools.
(c) Providing a course for the teacher-librarians of the smaller schools.

A permanent advisory committee, however, is very necessary which should have teacher representation, as the books for the school library will be used both by teachers and students.

Any scheme involving the organisation of technical education must take account of these points. As it is possible that our larger technical high schools will shortly be split so that they may become higher technological institutes the whole matter is pressing. These institutes will be designed to take over much of the work in trade-training at present carried out by apprenticeship and the university (which is

no place for trade-training). Here at last, we shall have a reasonable continuity of technical education from primary school to the trained entrant to industry. Presuming this scheme to start soon, the libraries must be ready to do their part. Once complete library facilities have been made available to the technical high schools, the same reference habits will be catered for in the higher technical institutions so that the trainee, on leaving, will have formed a technique of information seeking. It is useless providing "works-libraries" all over the country. What we need are men who know how to command library service anywhere. We *must* start young.

Accelerated trade courses are to be expected in N.Z.'s new industrial development. Already the American Forces' system of technical training, to say nothing of our own R.N.Z.A.F. system, has had an effect. The author has had actual experience of these accellerated courses which are based on intensive study, rigorous elimination of extraneous material, brilliant presentation and *visual* learning. Our proposed higher technical institutes are sure to adopt these methods—their success is not a matter of opinion. The tremendous emphasis on "cramming" will cause our present libraries to look to their stocks.

The institutes, however, will be located in the four centres. In the past many excellent skilled men have come from the smaller towns. It is suggested that the public libraries of the cities should maintain an adequate technical branch, but what of the smaller libraries? Assuming that the scheme to acquaint the adolescent with a first-class technical library succeeds in its purpose and that the smaller technical schools do their part, the prospective trainee may go to a higher institute (in which case he is well catered for under our scheme) or he will proceed direct to industry. What of him then? Perhaps the best solution to his problem would be a tradesman's register, all members of which should have access through the post to central library facilities—but what of those gifted amateurs who have done so much for technical advancement?

At this stage it is necessary to take stock a little. Local technical libraries devoted to the resources of the district are a necessity. The pathetic reference facilities of small town Schools of Mines is a case in point. Should there not be local specialised branches of the central library in areas where such facilities may best serve the community?

The six points scheme now emerges as follows:—

(1) *A master library at Wellington which will extend the functions of the present D.S.I.R. Library; this to be a part (and an important one) of the N.Z. NATIONAL LIBRARY.*
(2) *This Library to be served by a advisory board from industry.*
(3) *Branch technical libraries in all main centres, their stocks to bear upon the major industries of the district.*
(4) *Highly specialised libraries to be maintained where the needs exist, e.g. a treatise on bituminous coal mining is more useful at Greymouth than at Wellington.*
(5) *Adequate technical libraries at the technical high schools throughout the country—these to be linked with the local specialist library (if it exists) and through the area library with the master library.*
(6) *A widely advertised, nationally-based scientific and technical information service similar to that at present provided by the C.L.S.*

The provision of trained personnel is fundamental to the whole

scheme which is based upon the belief that the libraries can obtain, and hold, the confidence of industry. To this end it is suggested that the proposed librarians should obtain a science degree and industrial experience *before* undertaking a library course. They must return to industry periodically. All this presupposes that a salary will be available sufficiently attractive to secure the services of the best men, who should be of mature years and sound critical judgment. In their hands should be the higher direction of technical library policy and the actual contacting of the principal users of the library facilities. They should be relieved of the drudgery often associated with library management. They *must* have the confidence of the users of the library service.

The financing of such a scheme is a matter for the taxpayer. The cost could not be borne by any body other than the State. Similarly the rewards of such an enlightened library policy would redound to the benefit of the State. The aim of the service should be "waste nothing—don't overlap—miss nothing."

By some such self-sufficient industrial-technical service we may take a long step towards providing opportunities for skilled young New Zealanders who will thus be able to make their careers where they belong—at home. It is said that we export primary produce and brilliant young men. Perhaps such a scheme as this may, by raising our technical standards, keep the latter for us.

LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

J. R. C. ROBERTSON, *Publicity Officer.*

THERE APPEARS to be some misconception in the minds of some librarians regarding the libraries instituted by various state departments. Actually, there is nothing either hidden or mysterious about any of them. Primarily they have been instituted to assist departmental officers to carry out efficiently the functions entrusted to them. For example, the Department of Industries and Commerce has established a fairly comprehensive library at Head Office, in Wellington. In the main it is a periodical library, but, in recent months, there has been an intensification of the effort to build up the technological side of the stock. In the first years of its existence undue stress was probably placed on economics—a very necessary phase for a department so closely associated with the pattern of, and problems associated with, international trade. It is, however, only one side of the picture and, where officers of the department have to meet and discuss industrial matters, it is essential that they should have some technical knowledge of the industry concerned, and a working idea of the materials used and processes followed.

Just what that means may best be appreciated when it is realised

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that within the Department of Industries and Commerce there are sections whose responsibility is wholly concerned with: textiles, flax, chemicals, machinery, paper and packaging, timber, oil fuel, rubber, footwear, automotive parts and time-measuring instruments, scientific and laboratory apparatus, medical supplies, shipping and transport, trade and import control, finance (local and international), agricultural machinery and fertilisers—in short, sections and officers whose gamut of activity covers all phases of the economic and industrial life of the Dominion. Adequately to service these officers (and the industries concerned) means that facilities must be readily available where factual and up-to-date information can readily be procured. Hence the establishment of a departmental library.

ORGANISATION.

The library is sectionalised roughly as follows:—

Governmental and official: official publications and year books of N.Z.; Australian Commonwealth, N.S.W.; Victoria and South Australia; South Africa; Great Britain; Canada; U.S.A.; Palestine, and the League of Nations are available.

Economic: Housed in this section are Chamber of Commerce Journals from many sources, banking summaries, stock exchange publications, and general financial, economic and political periodicals.

Scientific and Agricultural: American, Canadian, Indian, British and Australian journals and official papers, upwards of thirty in number, are regularly received.

Rubber, Oil and Auto provide the basis of another section with which is allied an electrical section which adjoins the machinery, engineering and general industrial publications corner.

Timber, plastics, textiles and packaging, furnishing and textiles provide another phase which also includes industrial chemistry.

Catalogues: The widespread interests of the Department necessitate a large catalogue library and constant supplies are forwarded from the various overseas offices established by the Government. These are housed with the sections interested and are instantly available to officers and others.

There is a lending system for books and publications which are loaned for a period of 14 days, subject to extension as required. A very comprehensive set of newspaper clipping files has also been built up, but these are held for reference in the library, not even departmental officers being allowed to remove them.

Where an article, pamphlet or book is received that is more closely related to the work or activity of any other State department the material is passed on to the place where it is calculated to be of most use. It is not desired that we should harbour publications not of any real value to our own activities and responsibilities.

Like most other departmental libraries the Department of Industries and Commerce was a little world all on its own until some two or three years ago, when at the suggestion of the permanent head, the Hon. Mr. Sullivan, extended the facilities available to the N.Z. Manufacturers' Federation and its constituent associations, the Employers' Federation and other kindred organisations.

Let it be candidly confessed that the library is not yet fully indexed. The work has been commenced but, as in every other institution, staff shortages and pressure of work make it a protracted process. There

is evidence at the moment that additions to the staff will facilitate and expedite this work. While the library was a purely departmental institution the service given was satisfactory but, with the expansion of the library and the extension of its activity, it has become apparent that indexing and research will have to assume major significance.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER LIBRARIES.

Close liaison is maintained with manufacturers, and it is immaterial to the staff whether an inquiry is received direct or whether it comes through one of our public libraries or the library of another department. If the answer to the query cannot be found in our own resources the telephone is a very handy instrument for making contact with the Country Library Service or any other departmental library. Where we fail utterly to locate the required information in New Zealand we have completed arrangements whereby we can pass the inquiry to one of the largest technical publishing houses in the United States, and if there is anything available it will immediately be forwarded. That boon is of comparatively recent date and emanated from a visit to the library by one of the executive editors who recently visited New Zealand.

It must be admitted that liaison with other departmental libraries is on a more or less informal footing—a "Have you anything on —?" basis which has worked remarkably well. As a result of Mr. Harris' article it may well be that there will be a closer collaboration between departmental specialised libraries and public libraries. Already I have briefly discussed the matter with Mr. G. Alley, Director of the Country Library Service, and there is merit in a suggestion made that there should be closer collaboration between departmental libraries and librarians.

The one salient fact that should be noted is that the departmental library is not a "closed shop." We are quite prepared and willing to co-operate with our confreres in public libraries and we are always glad to welcome visitors from other departments or from other libraries. As a State department our aim and duty is to render to the public that service the public is entitled to expect, a service for which it pays. Should any librarian desire a general listing of the periodicals, publications, and material available from the library (exclusive of catalogues which are not fully listed), it will be supplied on application.

STAFFING.

So far as staffing is concerned I, as public relations officer, supervise the work with the aid of one senior assistant who received all her training in the departmental library. There is another assistant due to commence duty who, I understand, has received her training in the Victoria University College Library, and one more assistant to do filing and recording work of a general nature.

The Standards Institute Library, mainly concerned with specifications, is a subsidiary of the Head Office Library, and is in the care of a female assistant and naturally, although housed in different buildings, there is a free interchange of resources.

A COG IN THE BIG LIBRARY MACHINE.

We are just one part of a big department trying to do a good job and organising our activity along lines best calculated to give good results. We don't know all the answers and never expect to reach

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that exalted state. As a cog in the big library machine—and we are only a cog—we want to be in our rightful place and, if closer co-operation and collaboration with our fellow librarians will help them and us, then we are all in favour of it. Primarily, however, as I said at the outset (and this is not a qualification or reservation of anything said) our objective is to assist our department to function with the maximum efficiency and the minimum of friction.

MICROFILM

ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR LIBRARIES AND ITS USE IN NEW ZEALAND.

JOHN HARRIS, *Librarian, Otago University Library.*

MICROPHOTOGRAPHY is a method of copying documents. In the broadest sense it is only an extension of older methods such as printing and photostat, though so much easier, quicker and cheaper that its invention has implications as radical as Guthenburg's first use of moveable type. These become clear if we view microfilm against the background of general library development.

Until a century ago the function of libraries was something essentially different from what it has in most case become to-day. Their chief purpose was the preservation of books and documents. It was still a world of scarcity in the matter of manufactured things and books were no exception. The librarian was usually little more than a caretaker, a curator, whose business it was to see that books were not lost or destroyed. Towards the middle of last century libraries began to grow enormously in size. They grew not simply because the number of books was increasing rapidly but because of the increase in use. Private libraries, answering the needs of a tiny class of educated people, were superseded by the public and national institutions such as the British Museum. The general spread of literacy and in particular the demand for information due to the development of technology and science were the main factors calling for a different kind of library. The invention of printing was now put to its fullest use. Books were written and published in their hundreds of thousands. The largest libraries began to number their volumes in millions, and librarians had to develop new techniques to cope with the problem.

In a few great libraries in the wealthiest countries were collections comprehensive enough to satisfy most requirements, if the enquirer was on the spot. To a scientist in New Zealand however it was little use knowing that the book he wanted was available in the British Museum or the Library of Congress. Even if it were in one of the Australian libraries he would be little better off. Or rather I shouldn't say it was of little use. The mere knowledge that a particular book or journal was available in a certain library was itself an advance. The issue of printed catalogues and, later, lists of journals noting what libraries possessed them was enormously useful. But by their mere existence they served rather to tantalise the research worker with mention of what was available somewhere else. Every country in the

world was becoming literate and therefore beginning to tackle its problems in a scientific way.

Now science, while it is local and specific in its application, is essentially international and co-operative in its method. Each worker begins not from scratch but with a whole body of knowledge already acquired by others. And as he goes along he makes use of contemporary discoveries. All this knowledge he gets through books and journals. The rapid advance of science and technology in our age has only been possible through such co-ordinated activity. Like all other scholarship it has a bibliographical basis. It is not possible, even if it were desirable, for all research to be centred round the world's few great libraries. Research is not an abstract nor a purely bibliographical affair in most cases. It attacks a specific problem usually in a specific setting. The researcher has to work in a particular place. He wants his documentary material as accessible as possible.

In their attempt to meet such demands libraries have not only multiplied in number but changed in kind. Their function has changed from preservation to service. The job of the librarian is now to produce what is required when required. He does this as far as he can through selection—acquiring beforehand what is likely to be required. If his library has unlimited wealth he can succeed, but only up to a point. Much that has been printed in the past is no longer available. Much that appears in the present is beyond the means of most libraries to acquire. No library can hope to be complete in itself, and the smaller the institution or the country in which it operates the more limited must be the library resources. New Zealand, as one of the smallest and most isolated countries in the world, was naturally one of the most deficient in this respect.

To overcome these difficulties individual libraries were forced to look beyond their own walls for help from one another. Facilities were developed for interloan and for copying of documents. Interloan itself is outside the scope of this article, but it is relevant to state that (a) most N.Z. libraries now make their books available to one another by its means, and (b) N.Z. is too far distant from the world's great libraries to be able to utilise them in this way.

PHOTOSTAT.

The first satisfactory method of copying to be generally adopted was photostat. This was a process of photographing directly on to sensitive paper which was then "fixed" and dried. Most large overseas libraries installed photostat machines in the inter-war period and were prepared to make copies of any of their material. The chief obstacle was expense, photostate costing several shillings a page at least. The copying of a whole book or even lengthy articles in scientific journals was a very expensive matter. In N.Z. it has never been used to any great extent by libraries, but the Lands and Survey Dept. had photostat machines which were on occasions used for library work, and when this war broke out Kodak Ltd. had installed a photostat service in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. My own library utilised the photostat facilities of overseas libraries such as the British Museum very occasionally, and then only for single pages or very brief articles. For more extensive use it was too costly. Until five years ago our readers were in effect still confined to the book resources of New Zealand.

MICROFILM.

Within the last five years photostat has been almost entirely super-

seded by another photographic copying process—microphotography. This term, as used in English-speaking countries, refers to the making of a greatly reduced facsimile or photograph of a large object. It has come to be used specifically for the reproduction of textual material.

Though it has only been developed on any scale during the last few years its origins go back almost to the beginnings of photography. Daguerre disclosed his process about 1839, and it is known that microphotography appeared shortly afterwards (Journ. Doc. Reprod. 4:80, Mr. 1941.) It was extensively used for such novelties as microscopic photographs of persons set into the head of a tie pin or a brooch. In 1885 it is defined as follows in Thomas Sutton's Dictionary of Photography:

"*MICROPHOTOGRAPHY.* Under this head may be included two different processes. One is of little or no practical utility, and consists in copying objects on an exceedingly smale scale, the photograph being intended to be viewed through a magnifier, or microscope. The other, which is a branch of photography of the highest interest and importance, consists in producing enlarged photographs of minute objects—that is, fixing the images obtained in the microscope.

"With respect to the former of these two processes, a few words will suffice. In order to obtain an extremely minute image of an object, it must either be placed at a much greater distance than usual from the lens, or a lens of very short focus must be used. Any of the ordinary forms of photographic lens may be made of one inch focal length, and then by placing the object or group to be copied at a suitable distance, a photograph may be obtained in a drop of collodion. The only difficulty in the process is that of focussing. This may be done on the sensitive film, itself, a yellow glass being interposed between it and the lens while focussing and a powerful magnifier employed to examine the focus. Negatives may, of course, be copied either by transmitted natural or artificial light. Enough has now been said about a process which must strike any reasonable person as somewhat trifling and childish, when he considers how many valuable applications of photography remain yet to be worked out."

[Journal of Documentary Reproduction, 4:79-80, Mr. 1941.]

Siege of Paris, 1870.

The first practical use of microphotography for documentary reproductions occurred under dramatic and spectacular circumstances. In 1870 Paris was besieged by the Prussians. All communications between the city and the French government, which had moved to Tours, was cut off. A man called Dagron offered a solution. Loading two balloons with camera and photographic equipment he escaped across the enemy line and established himself at Tours. There he began a pigeon postal service with the beleaguered city, using tiny rolls of film tied to the legs of carrier pigeons. He had agreed with the government to reproduce daily upon film 200 squares of printed matter, each one of a thousand words. On arrival the films were placed between glass, magnified by means of an electric light, and thrown upon a screen.

Sixty years on.

After this episode some sixty years elapsed before microfilm came into the news. Then in 1932 appeared an article in the German Zeitschrift Fur Bibliographie [49:182-8] expounding the use of the

Leica microphotographic film in research in MSS. At the same time the British Museum considered installing a camera and projector for such work. In 1933 appeared an article in the Library Journal called "Films versus Books" [58:237-40, Mr. 15, 1933] in which the author says: "It appears that we are very near the time when it will be much cheaper to copy articles onto film and send the film rather than to send large periodical volumes through interlibrary loan." (E. Henry.) In November, 1934, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture inaugurated Biblio-Film service, the first regular attempt to provide microfilm copies of material at standard rates, drawing on a wide range of Washington libraries. By June of this same year the N.Y. Public Library was experimenting with microfilm as a means of replacing its extensive newspaper files, and trying out projectors. Just a year later I visited this library and saw their readers and cameras at work. The implications so impressed me that I began planning for their use in New Zealand.

By 1938 microfilm was a going concern. Cameras and readers of an efficient type were on the market and the larger libraries of America and Europe were rapidly installing them. Banks and business houses were using microfilm extensively for the duplication of cheques, records, etc., and so great was the interest that a Journal of Documentary Reproduction was started, devoted almost wholly to microfilm. The Oxford University Press offered to supply film copies of all its Out of Print publications, and several newspapers began the regular issue of copies on microfilm.

The War.

The War has had a two-fold effect. It has interfered with the production of cameras, microfilm readers and film for library use so that, for instance, it has for several years been almost impossible to import readers into this country. On the other hand it has brought an enormous increase in use of microfilm for war and allied purposes. Whole armies of men in the Middle East and South Pacific now send and receive their letters by airgraph. Not only that but the threat of destruction from the air has induced public and private institutions all over the world to have their important documents filmed for purposes of preservation. It has been established by law that a film copy has all the status of the original.

Summary of Uses.

The practical application of microfilm to useful ends is a development of the last few years and is still in its infancy, but it is already being used widely in the U.S. at least for the following library purposes:

(1) Economising space by microfilming bulky material such as long runs of newspapers.
(2) Preserving rare records by providing film copies.
(3) Acquiring copies of material not otherwise available.
(4) Copying library card catalogues for use in union cataloguing, etc.

Microfilm in New Zealand.

Since the War began New Zealand has developed the use of microfilm on a large scale for overseas mails. Microfilm copies of correspondence enormously reduce its weight and bulk, which are both factors of the first importance in air mail service. Libraries have bene-

fited in this along with the rest of the community, using airgraph largely for overseas ordering. In other respects the use of microfilm for library purposes is growing rapidly though it is still far from general. It is little used so far for the copying of material in our own libraries, whether it be to economise in space, to duplicate rare records, or to obviate the sending of bulky volumes on interloan. It is used mainly to acquire from overseas copies of material not available locally, the main demand coming from workers in the various sciences and industrial technology.

At the Otago University Library we have used overseas microfilm services to acquire materials as (1) Out of Print books needed for reference purposes. (2) Parts of the Standard "Birds of Australia" (Mathews) which costs over £70 and is not available in N.Z. (3) A German technical book required to solve certain problems in the development of a local war industry. There was no copy in N.Z. but a Sydney library had a copy and microfilmed it for us. (4) Articles in scientific journals, ranging from 1 to 100 pages. These account for at least 80% of our microfilm acquisitions. Without them much of the research done in our science department would be impeded and even frustrated.

Facilities in New Zealand.

The following notes indicate the facilities available both for making microfilm and for reading it. The information has been obtained as the result of a questionnaire sent to all likely libraries. It should not be assumed that a library without proper microfilm reading facilities cannot use microfilm at least in a small way. Though it is a strain on the eyes the film can be read with such aids as a microscope, a powerful magnifying glass, or those stereoscopic film viewers devised as children's toys. Projectors capable of holding 35 m.m. film can be successfully utilised in many cases. Some one or other of these methods has been or still is used by most libraries mentioned. There may be others doing the same.

Auckland. Excellent facilities for microfilm copying exist at Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd., Courthouse Lane, the makers of film strips for the Education Department. The University Library has a Spencer Microfilm Reader which is also available by arrangement to readers from the Public Library. It acquires about 10 microfilms a year, chiefly from Australian university libraries.

Massey Agricultural College. This library has a permanent set-up for micro-photographing standardized lights and focussing. Leica cameras are used and there is also a Sayce-Watson copying outfit belonging to the Dairy Research Institute. Charges made are confined to cost of film.

For reading microfilm there is a 35 mm. Society for Visual Education Film projector. Alternatively films are enlarged and printed in ½ and ¼ plate sizes.

Wellington. No Wellington libraries seem to be equipped with cameras for microphotography, but the Reserve Bank has a Photorecord Camera made by Graflex Corporation. This seems to be the only camera in N.Z. manufactured specifically for microfilm work. The only readers in Wellington seem to be (1) a projector made for the purpose by the Dominion Laboratory which is reported to be "not 100% satisfactory," though it is used a good deal; and (2) a "projector of German make" at the Turnbull Library which seems to get little use.

The D.S.I.R. and Turnbull Libraries report the use of photostat for

copying the work being done by the P.W.D. at about 1/- per page. The D.S.I.R. has plans for a Photographic Section which might do microfilm work.

Cawthron Institute. No facilities for photographing but extensive use of microfilm obtained from Australia, U.S.A. and London. They are having a reader made, a new type (*see* Nature 153:155-7, F 5 1944.) Meanwhile they use a binocular microscope.

Canterbury University College. Microfilming is done at the Physics Dept. with Leica camera and specially constructed copying stand. No charge is made unless costs are more than for interloan postage. In the latter case it would be 3d. a frame. The library has a microfilm reader of the desk type constructed by Mr. G. Roth, Radiophysicist at C.U.C. This has only recently been completed. The few microfilms so far acquired (10) have come from Australia. Plans for the new library building include provision for a complete microfilm suite.

Dunedin. Microfilming can be done (on request to the University Library) by a member of the Medical School, but so far very little has been required. Microfilm readers are available in both the University Library and the Medical School Library. The former has an Argus Microfilm Reader which can also be used as a projector. The latter has a Spencer Microfilm Reader. The University Library machine has been in use for five years and proved thoroughly satisfactory. Microfilm is acquired mainly from the Fisher Library, Sydney University, where Mr. K. W. Burrow of the library staff does first class work, and from Bibliofilm Service, Washington. In the University Library use has been considerable over the past few years and is growing rapidly. In the seven months of this year 34 items have been added to the microfilm collection which amounts to 200, ranging from the whole books to short articles. The cost has averaged little more than 1d. per page.

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N.Z.L.A. NEWS AND NOTES

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

THE FOLLOWING extracts have been taken from the mimeographed minutes of the August meeting, recently circulated to Council members.

Present: J. Norrie (in the chair), G. T. Alley, M. Brown, M. Fleming, C. Perry, and the Secretary.

Interloan Handbook: Mr. Alley reported that quotations for printing 1,500 copies of the booklet had been received. The order had been placed with the Caxton Press who were setting the type and had promised proofs within a week. The proofs would be submitted to Council before the work was completed. An application has been made for permission to use the paper required. The report was received.

Appointment of City Librarian—Invercargill: The Secretary reported that she had written to the Town Clerk, Invercargill, expressing the hope that applications from persons in the Services would be considered for the position of City Librarian, and that, if necessary, an Acting-Librarian be appointed in the meantime. The Town Clerk had replied on 21st July that meantime no permanent appointment had been effected and it was intended to endeavour to make a temporary wartime arrangement with the existing members of the staff. The correspondence was received.

Education Conference: A letter dated 25th July, 1944, was received from the Director of Education, suggesting that since the material submitted by the Association had not been specifically prepared for the Conference it might be better for it to be distributed direct to Conference members, rather than for it to be summarized and sent out with the reports specially prepared, and asking for 150 copies of each statement. An alternative would be for the Association to submit a concise summary of its views, in the form of recommendations if possible, for inclusion in the report material being sent out. It was resolved that Mr. Barr's attention be drawn to the agenda for the Education Conference from which libraries had been omitted, that he be asked his opinion of the letter from the Director of Education and be invited to make recommendations as to the action the Association should take.

World List of Historical Periodicals: The Secretary reported that a letted, dated 26th June, had been received from Waldo G. Leland, President of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, asking for information respecting the principal historical societies or associations or other agencies of New Zealand, in order that he might correspond with them about New Zealand's representation on the International Committee. It was resolved that the Association supply Mr. Leland with the information required about the principal historical societies and other learned societies in New Zealand.

Council Meeting: The next Council Meeting will be held in Christchurch from 19th to 21st October.

AUCKLAND.

At the July general meeting of the Auckland Branch, Mr. John Barr gave a most comprehensive and informative address on "The book—an historical outline: process and printing." Mr. Barr illustrated his subject with examples of various styles of type, illustration and samples of the various stages of the physical make-up of a book. Some of the library treasures were displayed, including two editions of the "Book of Kells." Students of the N.Z.L.A. General Training Course were particularly appreciative of Mr. Barr's talk.

WELLINGTON.

There was some talk of Daniels in dens of lions at the meeting of the Wellington Branch on July 10. The subject for discussion was "Why books cost so much in New Zealand," and each of the chief speakers, Mr. Howard Wadman, representing the reading public, and Mr. D. B. Paul, representing the booksellers, seemed to think he was taking his life in his hands in venturing into a gathering of librarians. Actually, the audience did not prove ferocious, and the speakers seemed to enjoy putting their respective points-of-view. Mr. Wadman did not object to books costing something, but said the cost should be genuine, and not a racket. He considered that the public libraries encouraged the use of books more than the booksellers did, and that the booksellers were kept going mainly by the publishers. He gave some details of the prices of books in England and the price for the same books here. Mr. Paul explained that the booksellers have a price system based on the English published prices, and argued that to have good bookshops there must be a chance for them to make good profits.

The discussion that followed centred largely round the question of indenting for library-supplies, the librarians present arguing that too much was charged for this service, which held no risks for the bookseller. It was admitted that booksellers in this country have difficulties in not having publishers just round the corner from whom they could replenish their stock quickly and easily, and Captain Dunningham put forward the suggestion of a central warehouse for the better class of books, from which stocks could be drawn if required, and Mr. Perry suggested "book-jobbers" on American lines. The end of the evening saw both sides still convinced of their respective points of view—one that the cost of books in New Zealand was too high, and the other that booksellers were rendering a service and deserved to be adequately rewarded for it.

An interesting visitor present was Miss Root, librarian in charge of U.S. Libraries of Information in the South Pacific, to whom a warm welcome was extended.

OTAGO.

Junior members of staffs recently provided the Otago Branch with one of its most successful meetings to date. 'Issue methods in Dunedin libraries' were discussed by Miss Mary Ronnie, Miss Marion Dawson and Miss Jean Munro of the public library, and Miss Joan Coutts and Miss Ann Mackenzie of the university library staff. Dunedin is unusually rich in the variety of issue methods. A librarian with a bent for anthropology might write at considerable length on

the remains of many "library-cultures" which still exist in the far south: these range from the neolithic to the biotechnic if one may borrow Mumford's phrase for the emergent order. Following the outline of individual library issue systems by the main speakers, came a spirited discussion by the audience of the merits and demerits of each method. Although on occasion participants failed to address the chair, and more than once members harangued one another in concert, the disadvantages that follow any departure from formal meeting procedure were quite offset by the enjoyment of all members in what did ultimately become a verbal Donnybrook.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

THIS ISSUE of *N.Z. Libraries* is a postscript to our June issue, or perhaps rather, an extension or development of our June issue. That 'Libraries and industry' number aroused considerable interest: one Chamber of Commerce to which it was forwarded immediately made enquiries about N.Z.L.A. membership; an officer in charge of an important Government library forwarded valuable information about the book-collection for which he was responsible; the important issue of co-ordination of Government libraries has been raised. The whole question of 'Libraries and industry' seemed to the Bulletin Committee so important, that it decided to depart from its own neat and carefully worked out plan for special numbers. Here was a topic, the full implications of which could not be adequately dealt with, much less exhausted, in one issue. More space had to be given to it.

J. D. McDonald's article with its concrete plan for action merits the consideration of all members of the association. The article is interesting to read, but reading, like patriotism, is not enough. It is to be hoped that branches will discuss his suggestions and forward comments to N.Z.L.A. secretary. Is it necessary to plan for technical libraries at once? What should be the relationship of the library of a technical school to the public library in the district? Where will the specialist personnel be trained? Discuss these questions at your next branch meeting, or at staff meetings in individual libraries. The council meeting in October offers a useful opportunity for the executive of this association to examine the McDonald proposals.

Finally, members are asked to distribute this number and the June issue to interested members of the public. It is as necessary for manufacturers to consider library facilities as it is for librarians to pay attention to the needs of industry.

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An apology is made for the late appearance of our July issue. The N.Z.L.A. office quarters have recently been moved from Parliament Buildings to the Country Library Service, and the parcel containing *N.Z. Libraries* was unfortunately delivered to Parliament Buildings and retained there, until an AEWS officer tracked it down. No wind of blame should breathe on printer or editorial committee.

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Contributors are asked to note the editor's change of address. Correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. D. White, c/o. Training College, Lower Union St., Dunedin N.1, or 17 Garfield Ave., Dunedin, NW.1. Use of the postage district indicator letters does mean that correspondence is delivered more speedily. Urgent correspondence should be air-mailed.

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